Tuning the Diradical Character of *meta*-Arynes

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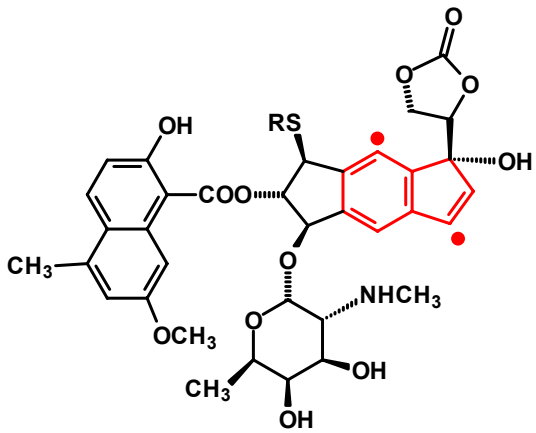
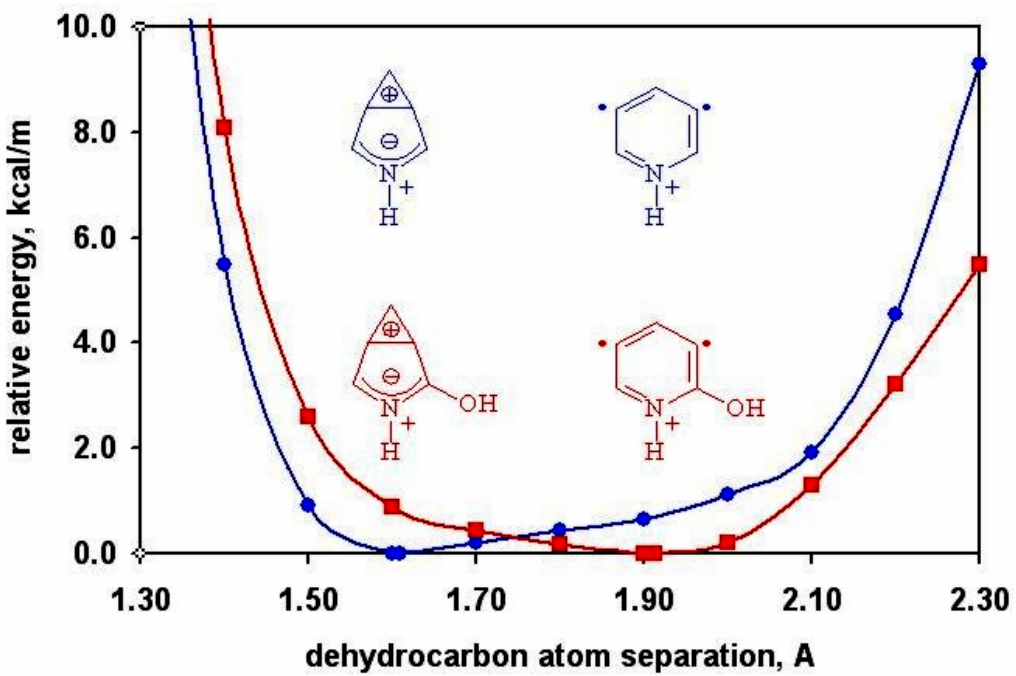
Aryne diradicals are the reactive intermediates responsible for DNA cleavage in the enediyene class of antitumor antibiotics. Such diradicals are extremely cytotoxic due to their high reactivity.



Neocarcinostatin's iologically active form



A combined computational and experimental study on *meta*-arynes has demonstrated for the first time that the reactivity of such diradicals can be adjusted from low to high by substituents that influence the energy needed for dehydrocarbon separation.